

## Transitional Words and Phrases

**Transitional words and phrases** show the relationship between ideas. Transitions are used to link ideas within a sentence, within a paragraph, or within a longer piece of writing. Transitions help the reader to follow the writer's train of thought.

Let's say I want to show the relationship between these two sentences:

*The river was gradually changing its course. The cliff continued to erode.*

Is the river causing the erosion or not? Adding a transitional can help the reader to know the answer:

*The river was gradually changing its course; **therefore** the cliff continued to erode.*

Different transitional modifiers imply different meanings; how does the meaning change in each of the following?

*The river was gradually changing its course. **In addition**, the cliff continued to erode.*

*The river was gradually changing its course; **however**, the cliff continued to erode.*

**Below are a list of transitional words and phrases:**

### **To compare or link similar ideas:**

also	moreover	in addition	too
besides	furthermore	in the same way	each of
similarly	both	and	likewise

### **To contrast or limit ideas:**

however	nevertheless	on the other hand	still
even so	although	and yet	but
conversely	in spite of	neither...nor	on the contrary
instead			

### **To indicate time or position:**

meanwhile	eventually	first (second, etc.)	before
afterward	nearby	later	soon

### **To show cause and effect:**

therefore	as a result	accordingly
consequently	thus	because

### **To offer a summary, an example or a conclusion:**

for instance	for example	after all
in fact	in conclusion	in other words
on the whole	in short	on the other hand
as a result	therefore	thus

